

[Copy.]

Leicester, February 18. 1841.

Rev. J. Boardman, [East-Douglas.]

Dear Sir, At a joint meeting of the Exec. Comtees. of the W.^{co}. N.^o. Divis.ⁿ, and W. Co. S.^o. Divis.ⁿ Anti-S. Societies, held at Worcester, I was appointed (as Secretary of the meeting) to address yourself & other ~~persons~~ individuals, and learn whether it wd. be possible for you, & consistent with yr. convenience, to engage in active efforts, with the 2 Soc^{ies}. above-named, in of. Anti-Sl. field in this Co. It is our desire to have an Agt., or Agt^s, visit every town & large Village in S. Co., give a lecture or lectures, & particularly, confer with Abolitionists in each place, stir up their minds by way of remembrance of Anti-Slavery truth, & counsel them respecting Anti-Slavery duty. You doubtless know that ^{the} ~~S.~~ Societies, in behalf of whose Comtees. I now speak, are friendly to the "Mass. A. S. Soc." It is not known to me what part, if any, you have taken in the unhappy controversy wh. has divided those who once acted together in this cause. It is not our desire to intrude the discussion of the controverted subjects, or even a defence of the course of the old Society (wh. has our cordial respect & approval), upon Abolitionists anywhere. We suppose that, in some places, allusion to these subjects may be necessary, in order to disabuse the minds of individuals of f. false impressions which may exist touching them. But this we do not desire, any farther than as it is necessary, in every case, to remove palpable obstacles, before

before the way can be, to any good purpose, entered upon.

We trust that, in most places in the Co., the merits of the Controversy are sufficiently well understood, to need no especial discussion from those who may act with us as Lecturers ~~and~~ ^{and} Advisers to Abolitionists. But all this, & every other, matter we are quite willing to leave, as in duty bound, to the good sense & conscience of those who may respond favorably to our requests.

"The laborer is worthy of his hire," At y. present time, in an especial manner, y. consciousness of laboring in a most righteous Cause, & in behalf of y. best temporal, as well as eternal, interests of our countrymen, both oppressors & oppressed, must be the chief reward of the Antislavery Laborer. We shall however discharge all expenses to which you may be subjected, if you engage with us; and more than this we hope to do, and ~~y~~ will do if we can. It remains to be seen, however, how far Abolitionists can be revived from y. torpor wh. y. late political contest has brought upon them, and brought to give them affections & their contributions, once more, to this Cause.

Do me the favour to reply as early as you conveniently can, that I may make Report to an adjourned meeting, which is to be held in 2 or 3 weeks.

With respect Yours

L. M.
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Samuel May

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Copy of Letter to Rev. J. Boardman
"Wor. Es. So. Dir. Antislavery Soc."